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CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1952.

GATE HOUSE,

CHEPSTOW, Mon.

October, 1953.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman. Mrs. Councillor S.B. Rees.J.P.

Vice-Chairman. Mr. Councillor W.G. James.

COUNCILLORS:

Mrs. M. Collins.

Mr. D.H. Davies.

Mr. A.J. James.

Mr. T.F.H. Lang.

Mr. C.E.A. Morgan.

Mr. A.T.B. O'Neill.

Mr. W. Powell-Tuck.

Mr. P. Powell-Tuck.

Mr. P.H. Price.

Mr. L. Price.

Mr. A.J. Proctor.

Mr. S.J. Richards.

Mr. S.J. Ryan.

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer.	Mr. A. Gill.
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.	Mr. E. McC. Taylor.
Rating Officer and Collector.	Mr. W.A. Hood.
Medical Officer of Health.	Dr. E.N. Dowell.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gate House,

Chepstow, Mon.

October, 1953.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the

Chepstow Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your district for the year ended December, 1952.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

E.N. DOWELL.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres)		1,350
Population.	1931 Census.	4,303
	Registrar General's estimate Mid 1951.	5,317
	Registrar General's estimate Mid 1952.	5,473

Number of Inhabited premises:-

Houses, Cottages, etc.,	1,373
Temporary units (Converted concrete hutments, Nissen huts etc.,)	100
Business premises with housing accommodation.	76
Licenced Premises.	25
Private Hotels.	-
Hostels.	1
Hospitals.	4
TOTAL:	1,579

Ratable Value @ 31st December, 1952. £33,020

Product of 1d. Rate.	Actual 1951/52.	£116.18.6·15
	Actual 1952/53.	£120.13.10·46

Rates levied for the financial year ending 31st March, 1953:-

Chepstow Urban District Council	7. 8.
Monmouthshire County Council.	13. 0.
TOTAL:	20. 8.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	35	41	76
Illegitimate.	3	2	5

In 1951 the total live births were 85, 39 Males and 45 Females.

There was one illegitimate live birth in 1951.

STILL BIRTHS.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	3	2	5

In 1950 and 1951 there was one still birth in each year.

INFANT MORTALITY.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.			
Legitimate.	2	3	5
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.			
Legitimate.	2	3	5

The following gives a list of infant deaths under 1 year of age giving age at and cause of death:-

(i)	Female.	10 hrs.	I.a.	Aspiration Pneumonia.
			b.	Precipitate Labour.
(ii)	Female.	18 hrs.	I.a.	Patent Foramen Ovale.
			II.	Maternal Toxaemia.
(iii)	Male	2 days.	I.a.	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
			b.	Dystocia.
(iv)	Male.	2 days.	I.a.	Kernicterus.
			b.	Erythroblastosis.
(v)	Female.	12 hrs.	I.a.	Prematurity.
			II.	Twin Pregnancy.

In 1951 there were 2 deaths of infants under 1 year and in 1950 7.

DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths.	35	30	65

There were 59 deaths in 1951 and 59 in 1950. There were no deaths attributed to Tuberculosis or Pregnancy, Childbirth and abortion. There was one death whose cause was attributed to Malignant Neoplasm of lung and 9 to Coronary disease.
Of the total deaths 33 were 70 years or over at the time of death.

Table I gives a classification of the causes of death and the number attributed to each cause.

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

DIPHTHERIA.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

IMMUNISATION.

Of the children born in the years 1950, 1951 and 1952, at the end of the year only 45, 28, and 9 were immunised. This is a low percentage of the number born in these years.

During the year Bridge Street Junior, Nelson Street , Infants and Portwall Secondary Modern Schools were visited and 227 children were given a booster dose and 49 were immunised for the first time.

SCARLET FEVER.

8 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified as against 12 in 1950 and 1 in 1951.

MEASLES.

26 notifications were received and of these 15 were in the ahe group 5-9 years. The expected increase in number of notifications did not materialise, There were 78 notifications in 1950.

The Head teacher of Bulwark Infants School notified in September that there were 23 children absent with Measles and in October notified a further 9 absent with Measles.

WHOOPING COUGH.

One notification of Whooping Cough was received. It is hard to believe that only one case occurred in the district.

POLIOMYELITIS.

There were no notification of Poliomyelitis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following were the notification of new cases received during the year:-

(i)	Male	-	age 3 years.	Lungs.
(ii)	Female	-	age 56 years.	Lungs.
(iii)	Male	-	age 31 years.	Lungs.
(iv)	Male	-	age 31 years.	Lungs.

Tuberculosis (Contd).

(v)	Female	- age 26 years.	Lungs.
(vi)	Female	- age 23 years.	Lungs.
(vii)	Female	- age 47 years.	Lungs.

During 1951, 5 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis.

MANTOUX TESTS OF SCHOOL LEAVERS.

Chepstow Grammar and Modern Secondary Schools were visited for the purpose of Mantoux testing school leavers. 29 children were tested at the latter school and 27 at the former. There were 14 positives at the Grammar School and 3 at the Modern Secondary.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT.

The unit visited Chepstow during June. The results of its visit are as follows:-

(i)	Total number of persons examined -	1,059
(ii)	Total number found to be abnormal -	67
(iii)	Classification of Abnormal cases.	
	(a) Definiate Pulmonary Tuberculosis -	0
	(b) Needing observation for Pulmonary Tuberculosis. -	10
	(c) Other abnormalities of chest. -	57

The unit also visited Chepstow for the purpose of examining school leavers; this occurred in November.

The schools visited were Portwall Secondary Modern and Larkfield Grammar. The results were as follows:-

Portwall Secondary Modern. 21 examined, 18 were negative. 2 min. films were unsatisfactory; and one failed to return for large film.

Larkfield Grammar School: 25 were examined, 15 were nega tive; 6 min. films were unsatisfactory; and 4 failed to return for large film.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES AND DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.	AGE GROUPS.						
	Under 1 yr.	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 and over	TOTAL all ages.
Dyphtheria			3	4	1			8
Scarlet Fever								
Enteric Fever							1	1
Pneumonia								
Puerperal Fever								
Cerebro-spinal Fever								
Acute Poliomyelitis								
Enceph Lethargica								
Dysentery								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum								
Puerperal Pyrexia								
Measles and German Measles.		4	6	15		1		26
Whooping Cough				1				
TOTALS:		4	9	20	1	1	1	36

DEATHS IN CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT 1952.

	Male.	Female.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	4	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	4
Coronary Disease, angina.	6	3
Other heart disease.	5	6
Other circulatory disease.	1	1
Influenza.	-	1
Pneumonia.	1	-
Bronchitis.	2	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	1	1
Hyperplasis of prostate.	1	-
Congenital malformations.	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	4	5
All other accidents.	2	1
Suicide.	1	-
ALL CAUSES.	35	30

HOUSING.

PRE-WAR.

Under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1930 the Council took the following action:-

11 Clearance Orders were made and confirmed involving 94 dwelling and outhouses and displacing 295 persons.

2 Demolition orders were made and 5 persons were displaced in the consequence.

58 Dwelling were made fit for human habitation as a result of formal action under Sections 9 to 12 of the Housing Act, 1930 and by reason of the conversion of dwellings into a lesser number 14 persons were displaced.

To accommodate the total of 314 persons displaced as a result of the Slum Clearance Programme 74 (3 - bedroom non-parlour type)houses were erected by the Council at St. Tecla, Bulwark.

POST-WAR.

Although no houses were completed during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1952, excellent progress was made on three further schemes with the result that 136 additional houses will be finished and ready for occupation by June 1953, In addition negotiations for the purchase of more land, sufficient for about 140 houses, are well in hand and it is expected that further substantial contracts will be placed in 1953.

The Council are to be congratulated on their vigorous housing programme and it is pleasing to note that by 1954 there is every chance of reaching the figure of 400 post-war houses completed; a remarkable achievement for an area with a population of 5,473.

At the 31st December, 1952, 292 houses were completed or under construction as follows

156	Completed and occupied:-	2 bedroom (Maisonettes)	32	
		3 bedroom type	116	
		4 bedroom type	8	156
136	In course of construction:-	At damp course level	2	
		At eaves level	46	
		Roofed	43	
		Plastered	45	136
136				292

HOUSING. Post-War (Contd.)

Owing to the somewhat limited local building labour pool it was necessary for the Council to arrange for the erection of large numbers of houses by non-traditional methods, thus of the 292 houses referred to 182 are non-traditional and 110 traditional.

TEMPORARY HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

No temporary prefabricated dwellings have been erected by the Council but, with the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the under-mentioned temporary dwellings have been provided:-

St. Maur College - converted into five flats.	5	
St. Maur - Niss en Huts converted.	12	
Bulwark Camp - converted concrete hutments.	88	105

It is generally agreed that these temporary dwellings are very substandard but they met an urgent need when the shortage of housing accommodation was acute. It is the Council's intention to close down these schemes as soon as possible.

These temporary dwellings were provided under the Government's Emergency Housing scheme and it is estimated that for the financial year ended 31st March, 1953, a sum of no less than £1,275 will be returned to the Exchequer.

HOUSING ASSOCIATION.

As mentioned in previous reports the Council entered into an agreement under the powers contained in Section 93 and 94 of the Housing Act, 1936 with the Red & White Housing Association, as a result of which the Association receive the Exchequer Grant of £16. 10. per annum in respect of each house.

The Council made a loan of £7,020 to the Association.

The six houses were completed and occupied during 1949.

THE SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACTS, 1899 - 1923.

The Acts were adopted on the 28th January, 1946.

The Council have advanced or agreed to advance to 12 borrowers the sum of £21,388. Of the twelve houses involved 10 were built under licence and 2 were erected pre-war.

POST-WAR HOUSING BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

At the 31st December 1952, twenty-six houses had been completed and occupied by private enterprise and five were in course of erection.

Although licences are readily available the demand has virtually ceased in this district. No doubt higher interest rates, the continued high level of the cost of building and the fact that the hard-core of the demand for houses has been satisfied account for the tailing off of building by private enterprise in this locality.

ALLOCATION OF TENANCIES OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council still operate a "points scheme" for selecting tenants fo both permanent and temporary accommodation and it has worked very satisfactorily.

DEMAND FOR PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION.

At the 31st December 1952, there were 283 applications outstanding although the true demand might be fixed at 166 as follows:-

Number of outstanding applications.	283	
Add:- for hospital staff - say.	13	296
DEDUCT:-		
Number of houses in course of erection but not yet allocated.	36	
Number of old houses which would become available on removals and which might be regarded as suitable for other applicants with one or no children.	50	
Number of applications from persons who do not live in the district and have never lived in the area and who are not working in the town.	44	130
NET DEMAND:		166

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

The regular inspection of private dwelling houses in the Urban District was carried out during the year, and the various defects and nuisances found were abated principally by means of informal action.

No action was taken during the year by the Council to deal with dwellings which upon inspection were found to be unfit for human habitation, but there is no doubt that within the next few years it will be found necessary to deal with a number of properties which are well below standard.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

The undermentioned inspections were carried out during the year:-

Complaints received.	94
Visits made in connection thereof.	146
Nuisances found.	42
Nuisances abated.	40
Informal notices served.	28
Formal notices served.	1
Cattle market visits.	32
Food premises visits.	26

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The undermentioned visits were carried out in connection with the administration of the Factories and Workshops Acts:-

Visits.	12
Defects found.	1
Reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories.	Nil.

MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Wholesale Producers within the Urban District	3
No. of Retail Purveyors within the Urban District	4

Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

No. of Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
No. of Retailers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	2
No. of Pasteurising Establishments	1
No. of Retailers of Pasteurised Milk	2

MILK SUPPLY (contd)

The whole of the milk supply in the Urban District is either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested. A number of samples of designated milks were taken during the year and were found to be satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply to the District is supplied by a Private company, The Chepstow & District Water Company, and is derived from two sources in the Rural District, in each case chlorination is carried out by the "Chloramine" process. The supply is adequate, and routine samples taken for both chemical and bacteriological examination showed that it was up to a standard suitable for a Public supply.

A number of extensions to mains was carried out by the Company during the year, mainly to meet the requirements of the Council's new Housing Schemes.

The water is not liable to Plumbo-solvency.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Various extensions to the Council's sewerage system were carried out during the year to meet the requirements of the Council's new Housing Estates. The effluent from the sewers is discharged into the River Wye on the ebb tide by means of gravitation through main outlets controlled by penstock valves. In the near future it is the Council's intention to carry out works to the Thornwell outfall, in order to prevent the discharge of crude sewage into the river.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Almost the whole of the premises within the District are provided with water closets connected to the Council's sewers.

SWIMMING AND BATHING POOLS.

There are no swimming or bathing pools within the Urban District.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was found necessary during the year in connection with Smoke Abatement.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Two premises found to be verminous were disinfested during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employ a part-time Rodent Operative, and the treatment is carried out on the Lines recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A free service is given to private dwelling-houses, whilst business premises are charged on a cost of works basis.

The Council's sewers receive a twice yearly treatment.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MEAT ETC.

Under the scheme of the Ministry of Food for the centralized slaughtering of livestock, no slaughtering takes place within the Urban District; most of the meat being supplied from Newport. Regular inspections of the Butchers' shops and prepared food premises is carried out, and a satisfactory standard of cleaniness is generally observed.

The undermentioned goods were voluntarily surrendered during the year as being unfit for human consumption:-

Jellied Veal	6 tins.	Brisline	1 tin
Cooked Ham	31 "	Strawberries	3 "
Tongues	7 "	Herrings	1 "
Stewed Steak	10 "	Peaches	4 "
Bilberries	1 "	Herring Roes	1 "
Apples	14 "	Evaporated Milk	8 "
Plums	22 "	Apricots	2 "
Shrimps	10 "	Cherries	2 "
Salmon	3 "	Blackberries	1 "
Jam	1 "	Gooseberries	1 "
Chicken	2 "	Grapes	1 "
Barley Crystals	6 "	Chitterling	5 lbs.
Pork	66 "	Cooked Ham	24 "
Sausage	3 "	Flour	2 "
Veal and Ham Loaf	3 "	Pork	62½ "
Orange Segments	5 "	Sausage	70 "
Pears	2 "	Bacon	71 "
Prunes	31 "	Butter	1½ "
Luncheon Meat	77 "	Beef	114 "
Soup	6 "	Coffee	6 ozs.
Baked Beans	23 "	Coffee	2 bottles.
Beef	9 "	Haddock	1 stone.
Tomatoes	47 "	Sprone Mixtures	36 No.
Grapefruit	3 "	Currants	50 lbs.
Peas	14 "	Biscuits	26 lbs.
Damsons	2 "		

CATTLE MARKET.

The Cattle Market is operated by the Urban District Council, and an average of 30 markets are held annually. The market acts as a collecting centre for the Ministry of Food. The number of animals entering the Market during the year is as follows:-

	For Slaughter.	Store.	Total.
Sheep.	13,732	1,022	14,754
Pigs.	925	805	1,730
Calves.	990	123	1,113
Cattle.	1,567	310	1,877
Bulls.	14	1	15
	17,228	2,261	19,489

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The refuse is collected twice weekly from almost all premises in the District by means of a 10 cubic yard petrol driven, side loading vehicle. Owing to the number of houses being built by the Council it will become necessary in the very near future for the Council either to provide an additional vehicle, or alternatively one of a much larger capacity, if a twice weekly collection is to be maintained.

Disposal is effected by means of tipping on low land adjoining the Chepstow Racecourse.

The collection and salvage of waste paper was carried out, although the low price of waste at the mills inclined to make this service uneconomic.